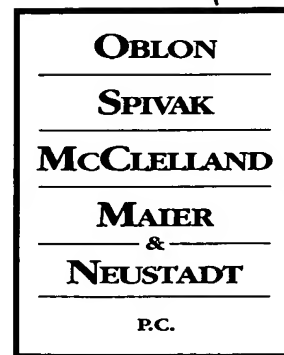




Docket No.: 255884US6PCT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



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RE: Application Serial No.: 10/501,403

Applicants: Mitsutoshi TERADA, et al.

Filing Date: July 15, 2004

For: RECORDING MEDIUM, RECORDING
APPARATUS, PLAYBACK APPARATUS,
RECORDING METHOD, AND PLAYBACK
METHOD

Group Art Unit: 2627

Examiner: PATEL, GAUTAM

SIR:

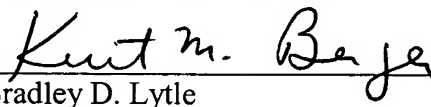
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our credit card payment form in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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DOCKET NO: 255884US6PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

THE APPLICATION OF

MITSUTOSHI TERADA, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: 10/501,403

FILED: JULY 15, 2004

FOR: RECORDING MEDIUM,
RECORDING APPARATUS, PLAYBACK
APPARATUS, RECORDING METHOD,
AND PLAYBACK METHOD

:

: EXAMINER: PATEL, GAUTAM

:

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:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 4, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Invention A, drawn to Claims 1-4. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

In addition, Applicants note that the present application is a national stage PCT application and should have therefore been analyzed under the unity of invention requirement set forth in MPEP § 1893.03(d). Under this standard, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-5 and 8 are drawn to a single general inventive concept. Both Claims 1 and 5 require a recording medium having a once-writable recording section having a main data area with three sub-areas. As MPEP § 1893.03(d) explains, a group of inventions form "a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature." Here, the

recording medium having the claimed main data area is the common technical feature of the inventions recited in independent Claims 1, 5, and 8.

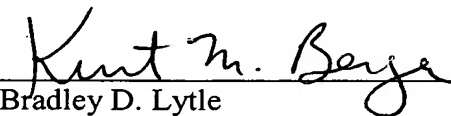
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn at least with respect to Inventions A and B, and that Claims 1-5 and 8 be examined together.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicants' representative on February 5, 2007, at which time the outstanding Restriction Requirement was discussed. In particular, the unity of invention requirement set forth above was discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed to reconsider the restriction requirement with respect to Groups A and B.

If the present Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn, examination on the merits of the claims of Invention A is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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